

SPAWN

HAUNT

SPAWN COSTUME
ORIGIN: **PART 2**

image

234

DIGITAL
EDITION

McFARLANE
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+TC6





Celebrity Savior Part 6

PREVIOUSLY IN SPAWN

Pulled into the "black" by his sentient costume, the deadly K7-Leetha, Jim Downing's fight for control, and survival, intensifies. Threatening to enslave Jim for its own dark needs, the K7 reveals a shocking truth – while a creature of Hell, it was actually born in Heaven.

As the darkness began to consume Jim, he stood defiant, and with one powerful burst, pushed back the K7's advance, but for how long...? Only time will tell, as the battle for Jim Downing's life and soul continues.



Jim Downing (Spawn) – A man whose past is shrouded in mystery, and connected intimately to the very fabric of the Spawn mythos, Jim is the world's newest Hellspawn...and so much more. Having spent years in a deep coma, Jim's main drive is piecing together the fragments of the man he was, in an effort to discover the man he truly is.



K7-Leetha – The hell-born symbiote that was once bound to the Al Simmons, is now attached to Jim Downing. As the symbiote begins to slowly exert more influence only time will tell just how dangerous this loyal soldier of Hell truly is.



Daniel Kilgore – A lapsed priest with a "haunting" secret, Daniel Kilgore has been drawn to something sinister lurking in the shadows of New York City. What, if any connection he has to Jim Downing remains to be seen, but this quiet, solemn young man just may be a bigger threat than anyone realizes.



Max Williams – The deceased son of Detective Twitch Williams, Max has an unfortunate and sorted past, despite an overall innocence of mind and spirit. Now trapped "between" life and death, Max holds information key to Jim's struggle for control.

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BLOG POST #347:

I've written many times, in incredible detail, about the nature of good and evil. Where it comes from. Who are prime candidates that Heaven and Hell target. And why we humans love to wallow in both. But what happens when someone tries to defy both God's or Satan's efforts? What happens to them?



What happens to the atheist? He lives his life surrounded by good and evil, but casually chooses to endorse neither, deluding himself to think that somehow he's just something in-between.

Those that follow my blogs know that I think that it's impossible to be neutral. We're all destined to become something whether we like it or not. There's no escaping it.



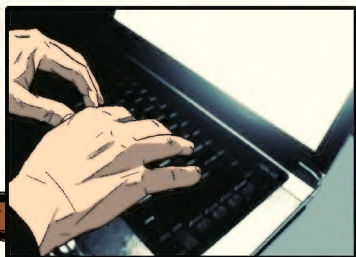
God has his plans. Satan has his... and we're just the poor suckers that have to choose between the two. They call it **'free will'**.

But I've been wrestling with something. What if someone wanted a third choice? What if someone wanted **NOTHING!** Think about it. What if a person rejected entrance to both Heaven and Hell?



I know it seems impossible for those of us that have religion in our hearts. I have actually met people who have told me not only do they not believe in an afterlife... but even if they were wrong and they appeared at the Pearly Gates to be judged by God it wouldn't matter to them.

The reason it wouldn't matter, they say, is because even at that moment, even if God forgave them for their sins and allowed them entrance into his kingdom... they wouldn't go.



Yes, you read that correctly...
THEY WOULDN'T GO!

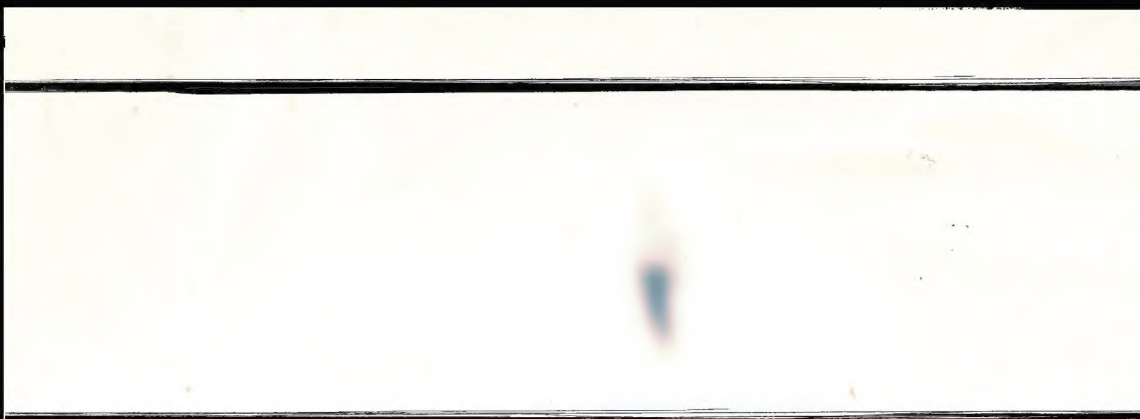
It's crazy, right!? No one would be that stupid, would they? But then I look in their eyes and can see that's **exactly** what they'd do. And the pure honesty of that conviction is quite something to behold.

In death they'd choose nothing.
Want nothing.



And as inconceivable as that may sound to you or I... they're completely at peace with that decision.

So that's today's poll question. Do you think **NOTHING** can exist? If so, what would it look like and how would it feel? I'd like your opinion.



DAMMIT.



WHAT
DO I DO
NOW?



MARC ROSEN - Manager, Jim Downing

FIRST OFF, I'D LIKE TO THANK YOU, MR. ROSEN, FOR COMING ON TODAY. AS YOU HEARD ME SAY IN THE EARLIER SEGMENT, THERE SEEMS TO BE SOME FAIRLY STRONG OPINIONS ABOUT THE 'POWERS' WE'VE SEEN MR. DOWNING DISPLAY IN PUBLIC. CERTAIN CONSERVATIVE GROUPS ARE CALLING HIS ACTIONS BLASPHEMOUS IN NATURE AND A DIRECT SLAP AT THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, IN PARTICULAR. DOES MR. DOWNING HAVE ANY OPINION ABOUT THAT?

I'D LIKE TO ALSO THANK YOU FOR HAVING ME ON TODAY. BUT TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTION, JIM IS ACUTELY AWARE THAT THE MYSTERIOUS NATURE OF HIS ABILITIES WILL LEAD SOME TO MAKE CONCLUSIONS THAT NONE OF US FROM THE FOUNDATION WOULD ENDORSE. IN FACT, IT'S THE PUBLIC AND NEWS OUTLETS THAT HAVE COME UP WITH SOME OF THE LABELS BEING THROWN ABOUT.

BUT YOU CAN UNDERSTAND SOME OF THE ANXIETY THAT MR. DOWNING IS CAUSING?

OF COURSE. LOOK-- NONE OF US, INCLUDING JIM, HAVE YET BEEN ABLE TO DETERMINE EXACTLY WHY HE WOKE FROM HIS COMA WITH THESE POWERS. THE DOCTORS HAVE RUN DOZENS OF TESTS BUT AREN'T ANY CLOSER TO GIVING US SOUND REASONS FOR THEIR EXISTENCE. AND AS FOR SOME OF THE CONSERVATIVE GROUPS, WELL... AS ABE LINCOLN SAID, "YOU CAN'T PLEASE EVERYONE."

HAVE THERE BEEN ANY INCIDENTS BETWEEN THE TWO PROTEST GROUPS-- GIVEN THAT SOME SEE HIM AS A SAINT AND OTHERS THINK HE'S SATAN?

IT'S STRANGE THAT YOU SAY THAT SINCE HE WAS RECENTLY SHOT DURING AN INTERVIEW, HOW IS THAT WELL BEHAVED?

NO. SO FAR EVERYONE HAS BEEN VERY WELL BEHAVED.



BUT HE WAS STILL SHOT! SURELY THAT HAS TO GIVE YOU SOME CONCERN.

I WAS TALKING MORE ABOUT THE CROWDS AT THE CONSTRUCTION SITE WHERE SECURITY IS VERY TIGHT. THE INCIDENT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT WAS AT ANOTHER LOCATION.

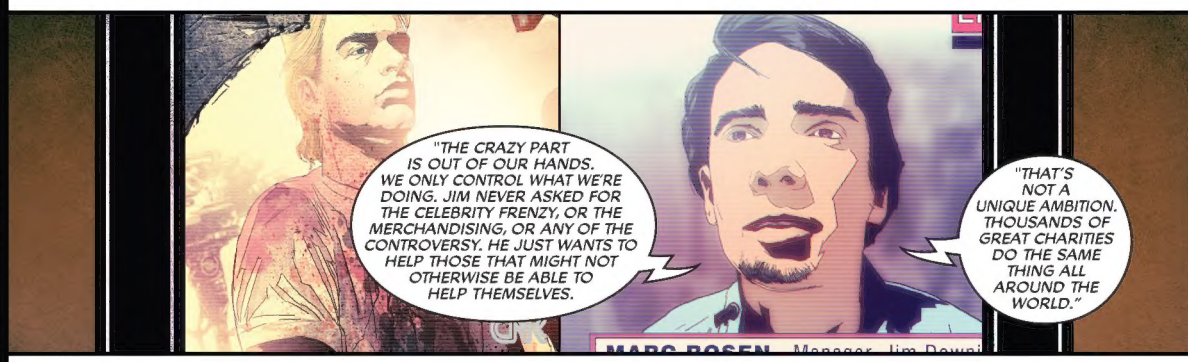
IT DOES. I DON'T MEAN TO MAKE LIGHT OF THAT. WE'VE TAKEN PROPER STEPS TO PREVENT THAT FROM HAPPENING AGAIN.

DO YOU THINK BEING A POLARIZING PERSONALITY, WHO'S ALSO BECOMING A SOCIAL MEDIA SUPER-STAR WITH THE YOUTH, IS A BIT TOO MUCH FOR HIM?

HONESTLY, HE ISN'T REALLY COMFORTABLE WITH THE FULL-TIME MEDIA SCRUTINY-- BUT HE REALIZES HIS FOUNDATION WILL BE MORE SUCCESSFUL IF PEOPLE KNOW ABOUT HIS CHARITABLE GOALS.

WHAT ABOUT THE ODD CIRCUMSTANCE OF HIS FORMER DOCTORS PASSING AWAY, OR THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THE PHOTOGRAPHER HE SAVED ON TV? ARE THOSE JUST COINCIDENCES? I'M WONDERING HOW MUCH CRAZIER YOU THINK DOWNING'S LIFE CAN STILL GET?





"THE CRAZY PART IS OUT OF OUR HANDS. WE ONLY CONTROL WHAT WE'RE DOING. JIM NEVER ASKED FOR THE CELEBRITY FRENZY, OR THE MERCHANDISING, OR ANY OF THE CONTROVERSY. HE JUST WANTS TO HELP THOSE THAT MIGHT NOT OTHERWISE BE ABLE TO HELP THEMSELVES."

"THAT'S NOT A UNIQUE AMBITION. THOUSANDS OF GREAT CHARITIES DO THE SAME THING ALL AROUND THE WORLD."



"AGREED. BUT NONE OF THEM HAS A FOUNDER WHO HEALS PEOPLE OR CAN RESURRECT THEMSELVES AFTER BEING SHOT POINT BLANK. THAT'S THE PART, I THINK, MOST PEOPLE ARE REACTING TO. HIS 'GOD-LIKE' ABILITIES. BECAUSE IF WE WERE TO FIND OUT THAT--AND I KNOW I MAY SOUND LIKE MILLIONS OF OTHERS--THAT HE HAS BEEN TOUCHED BY SOME DIVINE POWER...? GIVEN HIS MEMORY LOSS, DO YOU THINK IT'S EVEN REMOTELY POSSIBLE HE COULD BE THE 'SECOND COMING'?"

"NO. THERE'S ZERO PROOF OF THAT. THOUGH WE MIGHT NOT HAVE THE ANSWER TO HOW HE ATTAINED HIS POWERS--NONE OF US, ESPECIALLY JIM, ARE LABELING IT AS ANYTHING MORE THAN SOME FREAK ANOMALY. HECK, WE DON'T EVEN KNOW IF IT'LL LAST. I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH CLEARER I CAN MAKE THAT."



"YOU BUYING HIS SHIT, HALLWELL?"

"I CAN'T FIGURE IF ROSEN IS A BRILLIANT ACTOR OR A NAIVE FOOL."



"EITHER WAY, DOWNING'S PRESENCE IS DISRUPTING OUR INFLUENCE. THE POPE'S ALREADY BEEN ADVISED HOW BEST TO ELIMINATE THIS CURRENT THREAT."

An abandoned
church renovation site.

I'M SORRY,
FATHER, I'VE
FAILED YOU
AGAIN.

I TRIED
GETTING YOUR
ANSWER BUT HE
WAS TOO WEAK.
TOO FRAIL.

AND IT WAS
OBVIOUS, ONCE I
OPENED HIM UP, THAT
YOUR SPIRIT DID NOT
RESIDE *WITHIN HIM*. BUT
YOU, MY LORD, WILL
ALWAYS BE MY
GUIDING LIGHT.



SO I WILL
NOT REST UNTIL
I FIND IT.



IT'S
STILL HERE.
I KNOW
IT!




THOUGH
HE DIDN'T
SURVIVE... I KNOW
THE 'DARKNESS' IS
STILL HERE.

DOWNING
PUT IT IN HIM.
THERE HAS TO
BE A WAY TO
GET IT OUT.



HE'S
DEAD.
LEAVE HIM
ALONE.

A man with dark hair and a light beard, wearing a black priest's collar, is sitting on a wooden bench. He is holding a lit cigarette in his right hand, with smoke rising from it. He is looking towards the right of the frame. The background is dark and indistinct.

I'VE SEEN YOUR
KIND BEFORE. HUNDREDS
OF TIMES, SADLY. EACH OF
YOU FILLED WITH A GRANDIOSE
VISION OF YOUR OWN SELF-
WORTH, USING GOD AS AN
EXCUSE TO WHY AFTER THIRTY
OR FORTY YEARS YOUR LIFE
IS NOTHING BUT A
PATHETIC WASTE.

AND NOT
ONCE DO
YOU EVER ASK
IF YOU MIGHT BE
PART OF THE
PROBLEM.

NOPE!
YOU'RE ALWAYS
THE VICTIM. THERE'S
ALWAYS A REASON WHY
YOU GOT THE SHORT END
OF NEARLY EVERY SITUATION.
ACCOUNTABILITY FOR YOUR
OWN ACTIONS NEVER CROSSES
YOUR MIND-- BECAUSE IT
COULDN'T POSSIBLY BE YOUR
FAULT THAT **YOUR LIFE**
TURNED OUT EXACTLY
THE WAY THAT YOU
DECIDED TO
LIVE IT.

AND THEN
YOU TRY TO PAWN
OFF YOUR ANGER OR YOUR
LACK OF INTELLIGENCE ON GOD.
THINKING HE'S GIVEN YOU
PERMISSION TO BECOME A LIFE
LONG F*CK UP. IMAGINE HOW
INSULTING THAT MUST BE TO HIM.
SO DO US BOTH A FAVOR--
STOP USING HIS NAME
IN VAIN.

BECAUSE
HE'S NOT
LISTENING TO
YOU. HE NEVER
HAS.

NO!

HE TALKS
TO ME! HE
ANSWERS MY
PRAYERS!

I'M NOT THE ONE
THAT NEEDS TO WORRY
ABOUT INSULTING THE
LORD! IT'S THOSE *LIKE YOU!*
YOU KEEP HOPING HE'S
GOING TO FILL YOU WITH HIS
GRACE EVEN THOUGH YOU
LIVE A DEMONIC
LIFE OF SIN!

EASY, BIG
BOY! AND LOOK
WHO'S CALLING
THE KETTLE
BLACK.

NOW WHY DON'T
YOU SIT DOWN AND SEE
IF WE CAN'T FIGURE THIS THING
OUT. LIKE A COUPLE OF ADULTS.
YOU REMEMBER WHAT THAT IS,
RIGHT? BEING AN ADULT? TRYING TO
USE LOGIC? AREN'T YOU IN THE
LEAST BIT CURIOUS WHO I AM?
OR WHY I'M HERE?

I
ALREADY
KNOW
WHY.

OH
YEAH?
PLEASE, DO
TELL.

YOU'RE A TEST.
ANOTHER BURDEN I MUST
BEAR. GOD HAS TESTED ME SO
MANY TIMES-- WANTING TO SEE IF MY
FAITH WILL WAIVER, OR IF TEMPTATION
WILL GET THE BETTER PART OF ME. HE
ALSO KNEW I'D FAIL TO FIND THE 'DARK
POWERS' ON THE FIRST TRY, SO HE'S
SENT YOU TO TEST MY RESOLVE AND
SEE IF I *HAVE THE COURAGE* TO
FIND ANOTHER OF DOWNING'S
CURED PATIENTS!


**I DO,
MY
LORD!**
I WILL FIND
ANOTHER!

YOU DON'T HAVE TO.
SEE, I THINK YOU'RE A LITTLE
CONFUSED... THAT DARKNESS THING
YOU'RE FEELING. THAT'S ME. YOUR GOD
MUST BE AS BLIND AND STUPID AS YOU ARE
IF YOU'RE HIS CHOSEN SERVANT. I'D
LIKE TO THINK THE GUY UPSTAIRS
IS BETTER THAN THAT.

BUT LET'S STICK TO
THE POINT. DO YOU WANT
GOD'S FORGIVENESS? DO YOU
WANT HIM SO DEEP IN YOUR
SOUL YOU CAN'T SURVIVE
WITHOUT HIM?



YES.



AND YOU WANT TO FIND THE DARKNESS FOR HIM?

YES.


THEN MAYBE I WAS WRONG. LET HIM KNOW HOW MUCH YOU LOVE HIM. LET HIM HEAR YOUR PRAISES!

CALL OUT TO HIM!



LORD...


I AM WITH YOU! I WILL DO AS YOU COMMAND!
NOW AND FOREVER!!



YOUR ARM. I HEARD YOU HACKED IT OFF AS A SIGN OF YOUR LOYALTY TO HIM. IS IT TRUE?

I WANTED HIS APPROVAL SO BADLY.

WE ALL DO. YOU WERE JUST WILLING TO SACRIFICE MORE THAN MOST OF US. YOU SHOULD BE COMMENDED.



DO YOU BELIEVE THAT? THAT I'M WORTH HIS SALVATION?

I DO.



WHY CAN'T THE LORD SEE THAT TOO? IT FEELS LIKE HE ABANDONS ME WHEN I NEED HIM MOST? ALL I WANTED WAS TO SERVE HIM. TO HELP RID THE WORLD OF ITS SINS. MAYBE THAT'S WHY HE SPOKE TO ME AS I SLEPT AND ASKED ME TO FIND THE EVIL LURKING WITHIN MAN'S SOUL.

THEN I SAW IT-- ON T.V. THAT NIGHT! A FALSE PROPHET ACTING LIKE JESUS. IT WAS A SIGN! AND I KNEW THEN JIM DOWNING HAD TO BE STOPPED! THAT IS WHY I WAS PUT ON EARTH!



TO SPREAD THE GOSPEL... AND TO FIND WHERE EVIL IS HIDING! WHY CAN'T HE SEE THAT?



WHY DOESN'T HE UNDERSTAND THAT?




WHY?!




I THINK THE ANSWER'S QUITE SIMPLE.

WE'RE ALL HAUNTED BY THINGS OUT OF OUR CONTROL. THAT'S WHY THE BIBLE GIVES US SUCH COMFORT DURING OUR LOWEST MOMENTS. BUT I HAVE TO TELL YOU-- I'VE READ THE BIBLE MANY TIMES AND I THINK I HAVE A FAIRLY STRONG UNDERSTANDING OF MOST OF ITS MESSAGES...



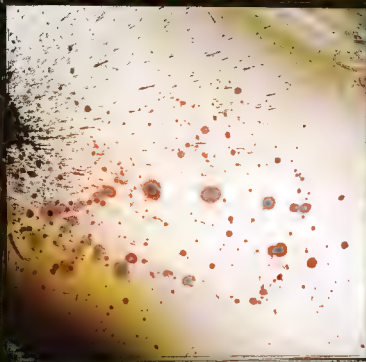
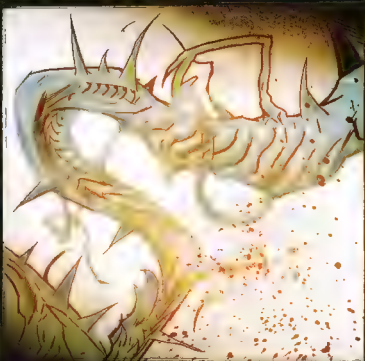
BUT I'VE
NEVER READ THE
CHAPTER THAT SAYS
YOU SHOULD KIDNAP
A MAN, TAKE HIM
FROM HIS FAMILY AND
SLOWLY TORTURE
HIM FOR DAYS
UNTIL HE
DIES!

**I MISSED
THAT
VERSE!**




GOD'S
FORSAKEN
YOU NOT BECAUSE
YOU CAN'T FIND THE
EVIL. IT'S BECAUSE YOU
ARE THE EVIL! YOU'RE
JUST TOO INSANE
TO KNOW THE
DIFFERENCE!

SO WHEN
YOU GET TO
HELL--- TELL
THEM DANIEL
KILGORE IS
BACK!!



AND LET THEM
KNOW THEIR LITTLE
TRICKS ON ME DIDN'T
QUITE WORK OUT LIKE
THEY PLANNED!
TELL THEM I'M ONTO
THEIR SECRET...



THAT EVERY
TIME DOWNING
USES HIS POWERS
OF '**LIGHT**' TO
HEAL A PERSON... THE
COSTUME HAS BEEN
PLANTING A SEED
OF '**DARKNESS**'
IN EACH OF
THEM.

EVERYONE THAT
HE'S EVER HELPED--
**THEY'RE ALL
INFECTED!**



IT'S
WHATEVER
YOU WANT IT
TO BE.

YOU SHOULD
KNOW THAT--
SINCE YOU'VE BEEN
HERE BEFORE.
REMEMBER?

YOU
AND AL...
YOU CAME
TOGETHER.



I THOUGHT
THAT'S WHY YOU
SENT MY DAD
HERE, TOO.*



SO HE COULD SEE I'M OKAY I KNOW THINGS
HAVE BEEN HARD ON HIM SINCE... I WENT
AWAY MOM'S HAD A HARD TIME DEALING
WITH IT TOO. I'M GLAD SHE NEVER FOUND OUT
WHAT HAPPENED TO ME THE FIRST TIME.

I MEAN, SHE KNEW I'D
FALLEN IN LOVE. BUT LIKE
MY OTHER GIRLFRIENDS,
SHE THOUGHT IT
WOULDN'T LAST.

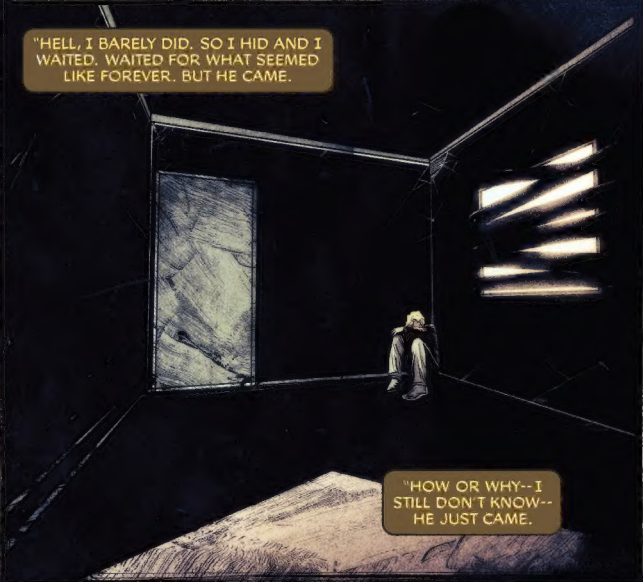
BUT I TOLD HER THIS
GIRL WAS DIFFERENT.

SHE WAS VIBRANT,
BEAUTIFUL, AND
PASSIONATE.

I WAS SO BLINDED WITH
ROSE COLORED GLASSES
I COULDN'T SEE HOW
DIFFERENT SHE WAS.



"AFTER THE TRANSFORMATION I JUST WANTED TO DISAPPEAR. MY FAMILY COULDN'T SEE WHAT I'D BECOME. THEY WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND.



"HELL, I BARELY DID. SO I HID AND I WAITED. WAITED FOR WHAT SEEMED LIKE FOREVER. BUT HE CAME.

"HOW OR WHY--I STILL DON'T KNOW-- HE JUST CAME.



"HE WAS A SPAWN. SAID HE KNEW DAD. SAID HE WAS GOING TO RESCUE ME...TO MAKE ME NORMAL.



"AND HE DID."*

"I GOT TO GO BACK HOME. GOT TO SEE MOM, MY FAMILY, MY FRIENDS. IT WAS... PERFECT!"

"EVEN AT SCHOOL, WHERE
I WAS AN OUTSIDER AND
BULLIED ALL THE TIME--IT
FELT GOOD! EVERYTHING
FELT GOOD!"

"WHY NOT? I'D BEEN GIVEN
A NEW LEASE ON LIFE. THIS
TIME I WAS GOING TO ENJOY
EVERY SECOND OF IT!"

"CLASSES AND HOMEWORK
DIDN'T BUG ME ANYMORE.
WHAT OTHERS THOUGHT OF
ME--SLID OFF MY BACK."

"I WAS JUST BEING A
NORMAL, AVERAGE KID."

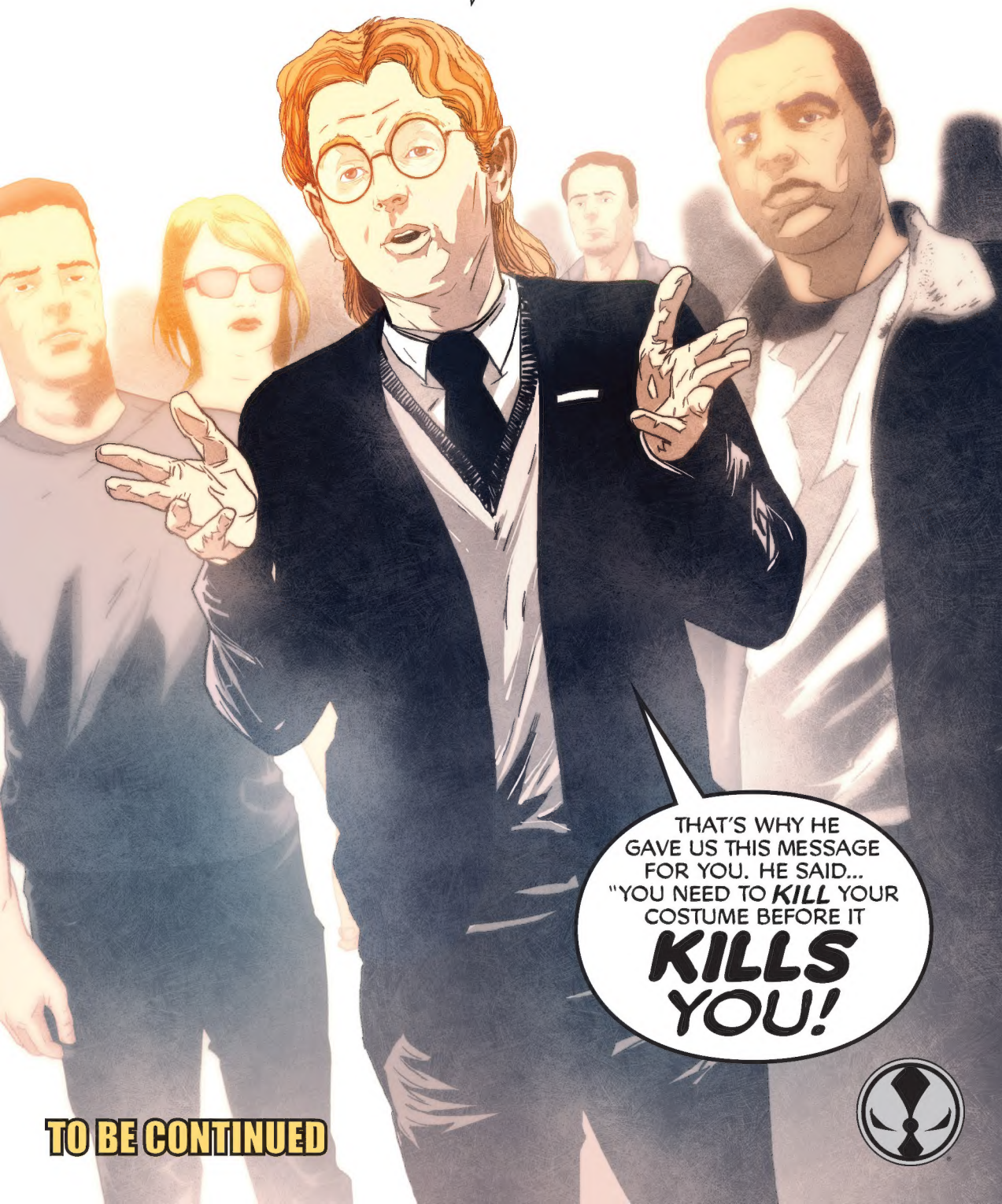
BLAM

"THEN I DIED."

MOM WAS DEVASTATED. DAD... HE'S BLAMED HIMSELF EVERY DAY FOR MY DEATH. TORTURING HIMSELF, THINKING HE COULD HAVE DONE SOMETHING DIFFERENT. SO I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR SENDING HIM HERE TO SEE ME.

I THINK HE'S AT PEACE NOW KNOWING I'M OKAY.

BUT THE REASON I'VE TOLD YOU ALL THIS IS BECAUSE I 'SENSE' THINGS. MAYBE IT WAS THE COMBINATION OF BEING A VAMPIRE, BEING TOUCHED BY SPAWN, LIVING THEN DYING. I DON'T REALLY KNOW, BUT I'M HERE TO WARN YOU--WE'RE ALL HERE TO WARN YOU--BECAUSE AL SAID YOU WOULDN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING.



THAT'S WHY HE GAVE US THIS MESSAGE FOR YOU. HE SAID... "YOU NEED TO **KILL** YOUR COSTUME BEFORE IT **KILLS YOU!**"

TO BE CONTINUED





Tyrant
Lizard
King

EMPIRE